

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 06032 290513Z  
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 HEW-06 ISO-00 OES-07 AID-05 EA-12 EUR-12  
/057 W

-----094092 290516Z /10

P R 290244Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1205  
INFO USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY  
AMEMBASSY SUVA  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

UNCLAS CANBERRA 6032

DEPT PASS DR. J. C. KING, OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL HEALTH,  
PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION, HEW

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SWEL, WHO, AS,XP

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN CANDIDATE FOR REGIONAL DIRECTOR, WESTERN  
PACIFIC REGION, WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED FOLLOWING LETTER FROM DR. GWYN HOWELLS,  
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF HEALTH, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

QUOTE YOU MAY BE AWARE THAT DR. ROBERT CUMMING, ASSISTANT  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL HEALTH BRANCH OF MY  
DEPARTMENT, WILL BE NOMINATED AS A CANDIDATE FOR THE POST OF  
REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE WESTERN PACIFIC REGION OF THE WORLD  
HEALTH ORGANIZATION IN 1978. THE VOTING FOR THE CANDIDATES  
WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE REGIONAL MEETING IN SEPTEMBER 1978.

QUOTE TO DATE, WE HAVE IN WRITING THAT SUPPORT WILL BE GIVEN  
DR. CUMMING FROM TONGA, WESTERN SAMOA, FIJI AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA.  
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WITH OUR OWN VOTE THIS MEANS THERE ARE FIVE FULLY COMMITTED  
VOTES FOR DR. CUMMING OUT OF A POSSIBLE TOTAL NUMBER OF NINETEEN.

QUOTE IN ADDITION, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM HAS  
EXPRESSED INTEREST IN SUPPORTING DR. CUMMING'S CANDIDATURE,  
AND UNLESS A CANDIDATE IS NOMINATED FROM A DEVELOPING COUNTRY  
IT IS QUITE LIKELY THAT NEW ZEALAND WILL ALSO SUPPORT DR. CUMMING.

QUOTE THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS RECENTLY RECEIVED ADVICE  
FROM THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT THAT THEY WILL BE SUBMITTING A CANDIDATE

,  
DR. HIROSHI NAKAJIMA, WHO IS AT PRESENT EMPLOYED AS CHIEF MEDICAL  
OFFICER OF THE DRUG POLICIES AND MANAGEMENT UNIT AT WHO  
HEADQUARTERS IN GENEVA.

QUOTE THE NEXT MEETING OF THE WHO WESTERN PACIFIC REGIONAL  
COMMITTEE IS TO TAKE PLACE IN TOKYO FROM 6-12 SEPTEMBER 1977  
AND IT IS PRESUMED THAT DR. J.C. KING OF THE OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL  
HEALTH, PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,  
EDUCATION AND WELFARE, WILL BE THE UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE  
AT THE MEETING. DR. KING HAS BEEN THE REPRESENTATIVE ON A NUMBER  
OF PREVIOUS OCCASIONS.

QUOTE I BELIEVE THAT DR. KING WOULD BE INTERESTED TO KNOW THE  
LATEST FACTS ON DR. CUMMING'S CANDIDATURE AND THE COUNTRIES  
WHICH SUPPORT IT BEFORE HE LEAVES FOR THE MEETING. UNQUOTE

2. DR. CUMMING IS WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO EMBASSY AND HE  
HAS HAD CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE IN WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
AFFAIRS OVER PAST SEVERAL YEARS.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: WHAT REPLY, IF ANY, SHOULD THE EMBASSY  
MAKE TO DR. HOWELLS AS TO US SUPPORT, OR LACK OF IT, FOR  
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DR. CUMMING'S CANDIDATURE?  
ALSTON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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